IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-8 without prejudice; amend claim 13; and add new claim 14 as follows:

13. (Amended) An optical disk method for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, comprising:

forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk via a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk; and

performing tracking control by offsetting a center of an optical axis of the light beam, by a predetermined amount, from a center line of the track toward the outer circumference of the optical disk, the predetermined amount being such that a tendency towards formation of a pit on an inner circumference side of the track due to heat remaining in an adjacent inner circumference track is canceled and the pit is accurately formed on the center line of the track, wherein a tracking error signal passes through a sample and hold circuit for a recording signal OFF period.

Please add new independent claim 14 as follows:

14. (New) An optical disk recording device for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, by forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk via a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk, said optical disk recording device comprising:

a tracking signal generating section that sequentially outputs a tracking error signal during a particular period from a given time point within a recording signal ON period after formation of a pit is initiated in response to turning on a recording pulse signal and a reflection of the light beam from the optical disk passes a peak level to a subsequent time point when the recording pulse signal is next turned on, and that, during a period other than said particular period, holds a level of the tracking error signal detected immediately before said period, passes the tracking error signal through a sample and hold circuit for a recording signal OFF period, or outputs a zero-level tracking error signal, said tracking signal generating section smoothing the tracking error signal to thereby provide the smoothed tracking error signal as a tracking signal;

an offset imparting circuit to impart an offset to the tracking signal to offset a center of an optical axis of the light beam by a predetermined amount from a center line of the track toward the outer circumference of the optical disk;

a storage circuit to store information indicative of optimum offset values corresponding to various possible recording conditions;

a control circuit to read out one of the optimum values corresponding to current conditions and sets the offset, to be imparted by said offset imparting circuit, to the read-out offset value, and performs tracking control using the tracking signal having the offset imparted thereto, wherein the read-out offset value is set so that a tendency towards formation of a pit on an inner circumference side of the track due to heat remaining in an adjacent inner circumference track is canceled and the pit is accurately formed on the center

line of the track.